

WENDY CHANG

Cambridge Scholar 2004

Degrees:

Yale University: B.S., Biology, 1998

Duke University: M.D., School of Medicine,

Research Area: Neuroscience



Wendy Chang graduated magna cum laude from Yale University with a B.S. in Biology. As an undergraduate, Wendy worked in the laboratory of Dr. Richard Lifton where she studied the genetic defects that underlie hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. She then undertook her medical studies at Duke University. She was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Fellowship to work at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in the laboratory of Dr. Ronald McKay, one of the world's leading experts in stem cells. Her work focuses on the development of the ventral midbrain with an emphasis on the transcription factors that govern both the developmental program of dopaminergic precursors and the various facets of dopaminergic neuronal function. This work has important implications for Parkinson's disease and other neurological and psychiatric disorders involving the dopaminergic system. Based on this research she has received the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Continuing Support for Medical Studies Scholarship, and in 2004 she was one of 250 outstanding students selected from around the world to attend, as an Honored Delegate, the 43rd Annual International Achievement Summit. Outside the lab, she plays and coaches tennis and was the recipient of the John Blum Coaches' Award while on the Yale University Varsity Tennis Team, and currently she competes for the Cambridge Blues Squad, the varsity tennis team of the University of Cambridge. In the NIH-Cambridge program, she will continue work on the dopaminergic system with Mentors Ron McKay and Trevor Robbins. As she continues with her research, she states, "Learning and discovering things and piecing together the puzzle that my project has become has been very rewarding. It is exciting that my work is adding to the cumulative knowledge that moves science forward."